

WILL ASK CITY
FOR A 20-YEAR
GAS FRANCHISEJ. D. Miller and J. R. Cullinane
Will Take Over Local
Plant if Concession
Is Granted.MUST INCREASE RATES
Company Is Now in Hands of
Estate—Is in Unique
Position Without
Franchise.

Application for a 20-year franchise to lease Columbia with gas will be made to the city council tonight. The company is now in the hands of an estate and is in a unique position without a franchise.

According to Thomas D. Miller and J. R. Cullinane, who intend to take over the Columbia gas works, the company is now in the hands of an estate and is in a unique position without a franchise.

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RESOLUTION TO
THE PRESIDENTSenate Passes on Reviving of
the War Finance
Corporation.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The senate today passed the resolution reviving the War Finance Corporation. The resolution was passed by a vote of 74 to 16.

FORMER PROFESSOR IS HERE

Dr. Oliver Mitchell Is Visiting His
Sister, Mrs. W. P. Hall.

Dr. Oliver Mitchell, formerly a member of the medical faculty of the University of Missouri and now occupying a similar position at Syracuse University, is spending part of a two-month leave of absence here. With Mrs. Mitchell and their young son, he is the guest of his sister, Mrs. W. P. Hall, at the Gordon Hotel.

Dr. Mitchell will go to his former home in Lancaster before Christmas but will return here after the holidays. He expects to visit a number of medical schools in the Middle West before returning to Syracuse about March 1.

THE WEATHER

For Columbia and vicinity: Rain or snow late tonight and Tuesday; continued rain and cold, but with rising temperature tonight; lowest temperature tonight about 32. Increasing easterly winds.

For Missouri: Rain or snow north and rain in the south portion tonight and Tuesday; warmer tonight. Increasing easterly winds.

A 20-YEAR GAS FRANCHISE
Twenty years is a long time.

A twenty-year gas franchise means too much to the future of the city to be decided with only two days' deliberation.

The Missouriian hopes the members of the City Council will realize that tonight is not the night for final action on the proposed franchise which was made public Saturday. When the gas company has gone along for years without a franchise, two weeks more of study can't do much harm and may do a lot of good.

The persons who drew up the franchise spent more than two days on it, test assured.

Columbia wants to be fair to the gas company, of course. She realizes that there is no inducement to put money in improvements unless there is a franchise to insure that those improvements may be used long enough to bring an adequate return. She realizes that prices of materials and labor are higher than they were, although now the tide has apparently turned the other way.

But on the other hand Columbia wants the gas company to be fair to her. Adequate gas service at a reasonable price is an asset for any city. Inadequate service, or service at an unreasonable price, is a handicap. In the past, Columbia has been at a disadvantage as compared with cities that had cheap gas. In the future Columbia wants service and price to be at least as good from the consumer's standpoint as in any other city of the same size in this part of the country.

So far as is apparent now, the proposed franchise deals only in generalities regarding service, outside of a promise to extend its mains whenever it can get one bona fide consumer to each 100 feet of new main.

Columbia housewives who have found the gas pressure so low that they were unable to cook on their gas stoves would like to see the franchise say something about the pressure to be maintained at all times.

As to price, the franchise is specific. It demands a raise of 45 cents a thousand cubic feet as regards most of its domestic consumers, and a minimum charge of \$1.10 a month for each consumer regardless of how little gas is used.

The franchise says: "The Public Service Commission of Missouri... shall have authority... to fix, establish and regulate the price." This, of course, is mere camouflage. The Public Service Commission has that power anyway.

The real effect of this section would be to jump the price of gas, and then put the burden of proof on the city to show the Public Service Commission whether the price ought to be lower.

Would it not be fairer to go to the Public Service Commission first, and ask that body to set a fair price for gas in Columbia? The commission has engineers and accountants, and expert knowledge on gas plants. The members of the Columbia City Council, have had no occasion to investigate the valuation of a gas plant or the expense of running one.

A price of \$2.10 a thousand cubic feet—or, for that matter, a price of \$1.60 a thousand—is purely an arbitrary figure set by an interested party—a very much interested party. Let's have the opinion of a disinterested state commission on the question.

A short delay in acting on the franchise would give time to collect information from other Missouri cities about conditions and prices and would give time for public hearings at which the representatives of the gas company and of the city could discuss the proposition in full view of the public.

CHINA RELIEF
CONTRIBUTIONS
REACH \$164Forty Members of the Methodist
Church Subscribed
Fifty Dollars Yesterday.

NO SUPPLIES IN HOMES

"Many People Will Die but the
Fund Will Do Much Good,"
Says the Rev. Samuel
Braden.

CHINA RELIEF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Previously acknowledged: \$106.50

Methodist Bible class: 50.00

Virginia Lee Meng: 3.00

Unknown: 2.00

Columbia subscriber: 2.00

A student: 1.50

Total: \$164.00

The total of the contributions to the China relief fund through the Evening Missouriian, has reached \$164.00. Yesterday forty members of the University Men's class of the Methodist Church subscribed fifty dollars to the fund.

The following contributed: H. L. Tenning, J. S. Berry, E. J. Miller, W. Earl Grubb, William Howat, H. R. Mason, Frank Steiner, Harold E. Mason, Royal D. M. Bauer, W. R. Crooks, Marvin H. Crawford, J. W. Cates, C. A. Moore, P. H. Perrell, Elmer Carl, Paul Berner, J. B. Coppedge, W. J. Barwell, L. Ross Welsh, L. W. Potter, Charles E. Rintel, Evelyn Cady, Ben Jumper, Roy Farrow, J. Aydelotte, H. Krieger, J. W. White, Charles Shumard, Paul R. Whitman, E. H. Anderson, Cecil Coffey, E. H. Newcomb, Cor Pritchett, J. S. Bauer, N. T. Buckley, Luther Walcott, Hester L. St. Clair, R. O. Mabey, Henry Vogel and Mason W. H. Bauer.

"It is a question in many minds whether or not this giving will do any good," said the Rev. Samuel B. Braden this morning. Mr. Braden spent two years as a missionary in the Kwangtung Province. "No doubt a great many people will have to die but the fund will accomplish much good and should be kept up. The idea that the same thing will happen next year is erroneous. The famine should lead us to do something permanently, however, to avoid recurrence of this condition."

"Such a famine as this is possible in China because there are so many people and so few resources. The great mass of people don't even have food in their cupboards. They simply go out each day and get what they need for the day. While with us it is a question of price, with them it is absolute lack of supplies. In many provinces there is no surplus and lack of railroads makes transportation of supplies impossible."

"They have no milk for their children since they neither milk nor eat their cows, using them as work horses. There is no grain stored away and the cattle die too when there are no crops."

"The Chinese are a thrifty people, working hard to provide for the great population. The problem there is one which could not occur here. Their land is old while some of ours has been used only fifty years. Disease is always prevalent and the filth and equal only in its intensity. There is no medical force to combat sickness and the people die like animals."

"For permanent solution, the entire economic system of China must be changed. A surplus capital would mean better education and living conditions, which would in turn reduce the birth rate."

FORMER STUDENT MARRIED

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Bayless Are Here
on Honeymoon Trip.

A. C. Bayless, formerly a student in the School of Journalism, arrived in Columbia yesterday afternoon on his honeymoon trip to the East. Mr. Bayless was married to Grace Nordell Leavell at Houston, Tex., December 15. The couple will be in town for a few days, going on to Chicago Wednesday.

Mr. Bayless known to his friends as "Tex," has been in Dallas and Houston, Texas, for the last two years. As Houston is his general agent for the Southland Life Insurance Company at Houston. He was a senior in the School of Journalism when the war broke out, and left school to go into the naval aviation service.

RED ROCK SCHOOL APPROVED

Addition Makes Total of Twenty-
Four on Boone County List.

Red Rock school, district number 23, of which Miss Nannie Booth is teacher, has been placed on the approved list of schools in Boone County. This addition makes a total of twenty-four out of a possible eighty-eight now on the approved list. Ten are listed as better than approved and are on the superior list.

SIX NURSES INJURED IN FIRE

Five Suffered Broken Legs When
They Leap From Second Story.

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 20.—Six nurses were seriously injured when fire destroyed the nurses' home at the University of Nebraska hospital today. Twenty nurses leaped from the second story window. Five of the six injured, suffered broken legs.

WASHINGTON WILL HAVE
INAUGURAL BALL FOR
FIRST TIME SINCE 1908

By United Press.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—For the first time in twelve years Washington will have its inaugural ball.

The ball which was a function of former inaugurations was banned by President Wilson eight years ago.

The committee recently appointed to arrange the inauguration of Senator Harding decided upon the resumption of the affair which will be held in the big pension hall.

Another new feature is the Mardi Gras on Pennsylvania avenue. The street will be divided into sections and one section assigned to each state. The sons and the daughters of the state will be present in mask and fancy dresses.

Washington merchants and hotel owners are among the supporters of an old-fashioned inauguration.

IS ROBBED ON
EAST CAMPUSStudent Hands Over \$12 at
Point of Pistol—Thieves
Escape.

Lewis H. Reid, of 500 College avenue, a student in the University, was held up and robbed of \$12, on the East Campus last night. Reid was walking through the campus on his way home from the south part of town, and as he reached the drive that runs behind Schweitzer Hall, two men jumped out and commanded him, at the point of a revolver, to hold up his hands. The larger of the two held the gun on Reid and the smaller one asked him where his money was. Reid told him the money was in his hip pocket. After the robbers had taken his money, they thanked him and ran away at a dog trot. They were unmasked, but had their caps pulled low over their faces.

The police were notified, but were unable to find any traces of the thieves.

Reid had a diamond fraternity pin and a diamond ring which were left in his possession.

FIRE AT OLD WISE HOME

Damages Estimated at \$1,000
Caused by Burning Stove.

The old home of Henry Wise at 301 West Broadway, now occupied by E. C. Collins, caught fire yesterday. The fire was caused by burning stove falling on a single rug. The damage done was about \$1,000.

Mr. Collins carried insurance on his furniture but it is not known whether or not the house was insured, as it is still owned by Mr. Wise, who is living in St. Louis.

The fire department was called to the Robinson Hotel Annex. The fire burned out but there was no damage done.

HIGH SCHOOLS
MAY COMBINESupt. Oliver Leads Movement
for High School Athletic
Association.

An attempt is being made by W. I. Oliver, superintendent of city schools, to organize an athletic association for Central Missouri high schools. Correspondence was sent out this morning to the principal of high schools of this section asking them to join in forming the organization. The association would include Columbia High School, University High School, Marshall, Sedalia, Booneville, Jefferson City, Mexico, Fulton, Moberly, California and a few others.

The difficulty encountered by the Columbia High School in arranging its basketball schedule as well as the decided advantages that such an organization would give to the schools gives an impetus to the plan.

Mr. Oliver outlined as follows: Standardization of eligibility of players; less confusion in arranging schedules; stimulation of interest in clean athletics through the competition for sectional championships with attendant better play of the various teams.

CIRCUIT COURT DOCKET UP

Have 143 Cases for Six Days of Jan-
uary Term.

A total of 143 cases make up the docket of the January term of the Circuit Court, as sent to the printer this afternoon. The whole docket is set for six days, the shortest period of time in ten years, according to Searcy Pollard, circuit clerk. There are as many of cases as ever, but most of them will not require jury trial, and therefore can be tried off of quickly.

Sixteen divorce cases will be tried on the last day. A total of twenty-seven parole cases will be heard.

Lynn S. Banks Visits Here.

Lynn S. Banks, general ticket agent at Kansas City, returned home last night after a short visit at the home of his brother, H. H. Banks, in this city.

To Sort All Athletic Equipment.

The Christmas holidays will be a busy time for the athletic department. During the vacation period it is planned to go over and sort all equipment.

COLUMBIA GIRL
A MODEL FOR
C. DANA GIBSONUnnoticed at Home, Elva Dies-
telhorst Is Called One of
New York's Most Beau-
tiful Women.

LOOKS TOWARDS CAREER

Leading Theatrical Men Are
Attempting to Attach Her
Signature to Numerous
Contracts.

Miss Elva Diestelhorst lived in Columbia a few years ago and attended the public schools here for several terms. But if anyone noticed then that she was any more than a moderately pretty little girl the thought went unrecorded.

The world outside of Columbia has treated Miss Diestelhorst differently. "One of the five most beautiful girls in New York" is the golden phrase whispered back and forth whenever she appears in public. She has been painted by Charles Dana Gibson and was the goddess in his sketch, "Gods and Goddesses," she has been the honored guest of the Vanderbilts and Goulds; among celebrities with whom she has danced has been His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales.

Statesmen, diplomats, men of fabulous wealth and influence—they have maintained a spirited rivalry for the smile that inspired Gibson. Caruso gave an elaborate entertainment in her honor.

"This bewitching beauty, as artists have called her, has been 'found' within the present year. She is only 17 years old now. Once he laid eyes on her the rest was inevitable. Her friends may look for her picture on many magazine covers now."

Naturally this little Missourian has been besieged with proposals of marriage. Names familiar all over the country have been mentioned in connection with hers. But she has told an interviewer she looked forward to a career. The theater may claim her, and certainly will if the leading managers can persuade her to sign one of the many contracts already offered her. Just now she is occupying her time studying music, posing occasionally for artists, and studying language. There are a dozen roads for her to choose from, and with any of them will come added fame.

DECLINES ARMY COMMISSION

Joseph H. Allen Refuses Second
Lieutenancy in Reserve Corps.

Joseph Hunter Allen has declined a commission as second lieutenant in the United States Reserve Corps offered through the local recruiting station.

Mr. Allen is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. He came here as a graduate of Wentworth Military Academy at Lexington, Mo., where he held the office of senior cadet captain at the time of his graduation. Mr. Allen received a commission of second lieutenant at Fort Sheridan in 1918 and was promoted to first lieutenant at Camp Grant in the same year.

He is a member of the Phi Gamma Delta social fraternity and Theta Alpha Delta, an honorary dramatic organization.

HARRISBURG COUPLE WED

Two Other Marriage Licenses Is-
sued Here Today.

Marriage licenses were issued today to William Edward Railton, 23, and Miss Edna Ada Richards, 23, both of Harrisburg; Clyde Routes Boyd, 23, of New Bloomfield, and Miss Christina Maxwell, 20, of Columbia; and Jesse Marion Lambert, 21, of Clinton, and Miss Grace Pearl Fonten, 19, of Columbia. Mr. Railton and Miss Richards were married in the recorder's office by Judge J. T. Rowland.

ROCKEFELLER SUED FOR TAX

Profits From 117,000 Shares of
Stock Thought Unaccounted.

New York, Dec. 20.—The Federal government today filed suit against John D. Rockefeller, charging him with making "incorrect, misleading and false" statements in connection with his income tax returns for 1919.

According to the complaint, Rockefeller failed to include as part of his income tax returns from 50,104 shares of Illinois Pipe Line Company stock and 67,176 shares of Perry Pipe Line Company stock.

CHARLES G. ROSS HERE

Former Professor at M. U. Comes
to Visit His Mother.

Charles G. Ross, Washington correspondent for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, arrived in Columbia Saturday night to visit his mother, Mrs. J. B. Ross. Mr. Ross was formerly professor of journalism at the University. His youngest son, Walter, accompanied him.

V. P. Crowe Heads Athletes.

The Athletes' Society elected these officers at the Y. M. C. A. Saturday night: President, V. P. Crowe; vice-president, Fred Baxter; secretary and treasurer, Clifford Hix; sergeant-at-arms, H. P. Marley.

Christian College Chef Is Also
Violin Maker and Sportsman

A. N. Rice, head chef at Christian College, is not only a pleasing cook but a master hand at repairing broken violins. Mr. Rice repairs violins during spare hours between the noon and evening meals at the college. He has arranged a little workshop just off his living room. Here he has his work bench, bottles of varnishes, brands of pastes and glues and all tools used in repairing musical instruments. It matters not how badly the violin is smashed up; as long as all the pieces are given him, he can glue them together so perfectly that the breaks can hardly be noticed, and then only when attention is called to them.

Mr. Rice has several fine old violins which he has bought in had condition and repaired. Among his collections is an instrument which was played by Professor Gilmore seventy-four years ago at the first commencement of the University. Another, which is considered by George Venable to be a fine instrument, was broken in twelve pieces when Mr. Rice bought it. This violin is about thirty-eight years old and was originally sold from Columbia's first music store.

Mr. Rice obtains work from all parts of the state and many violins are sent to him from other states. Taylor Music Company gives him all its violin repair work.

Besides being a chef and a violin repairer Mr. Rice is a good musician, a humorist and sportsman. His motto, which he has tacked above his desk, is: "You are the judge."

"Before Dr. Woodson Moss died, I used to spend my vacations hunting with him," remarked Mr. Rice, as he picked up an old cap and ball, 31 caliber, Colt's navy revolver and fondled it. "We would take long trips together—I certainly will miss him this Christmas."

"See this old revolver?" he continued, still holding the weapon in his hand. "I have been practicing with it lately. I killed a sparrow on the roof of a three-story building with it yesterday. I bought it from J. M. Botts not long ago. It was one he bought just at the close of the Civil War, one of the first five-shooters put on the market."

"A friend of mine left this old 36 cap and ball Colts with me to be repaired," he remarked as he picked up a rusty old piece. "This gun was carried by one of the James boys during the big battle they had in Centralia at the time of the guerrilla reign in Missouri."

NEW CENTRALIA
DEPOT PLANNEDBusiness Men Ask Columbia
Commercial Club to Aid
in Project.

Centralia is to have a new Washburn depot if the plans of the Centralia Commercial Club meet with success. A letter to R. S. Reid, secretary of the Columbia Commercial Club, asks the co-operation of the local club "inasmuch as the building would be to our mutual advantage."

Plans for the new station have been drawn for some years, and the Washburn intended beginning work on the depot when the war broke out. When the government took over the railways, the matter was dropped.

It is thought that a personal interview with the superintendent would be more effective so it was suggested that a joint committee from the two clubs be appointed to confer with him. The letter, any suggestion from the Columbia Club would be acceptable, it adds.

Appreciation for the banquet given here last Thursday night was expressed in the opening paragraph: "At our regular weekly luncheon today, the members were loud in their praise for the most cordial and substantial reception we received at your hands last evening and we take this method of making public acknowledgement."

EARTHQUAKES
IN ARGENTINEGreat Loss of Life From Most
Severe Shock in
Years.

By United Press.

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 20.—Towns and villages along the Argentine slope of the Andes Mountains were destroyed with great loss of life by severe earthquakes Friday and Saturday. The shocks were the most severe experienced in this country since 1869, when half of City of Mendoza was laid in ruins. That city suffered minor shocks on this occasion, but little damage was done.

Trepostomas, Costa de Arazu, and La Villa are the scenes of greatest death and property damage. Several bodies already have been recovered from the wreckage and it is believed many more will be found as the work of the rescuers goes on. Red Cross units and other relief parties have been rushed from the nearest places where they were not needed and their work is progressing rapidly.

CHARGES PRISONERS BEATEN

Magazine Writer Says Men Are
Killed and Mistreated.

By United Press.

HOUSTON, Tex., Dec. 20.—Charges that prisoners in Texas prisons are "beaten to death, killed for minor offenses and mistreated beyond all human endurance" were made by George W. Dixon, a noted magazine writer of Houston, in an open letter said to have been mailed broadcast to newspapers throughout the state.

RUMLEY SENTENCED TO JAIL

Publishes Will Appeal From Term
of Year and Day.

By United Press.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Dr. Edward A. Rumley, former publisher, was sentenced to one year and one day in the Atlanta prison following his conviction on a charge of concealing the German owner ship of the Evening Mail.

Dr. E. R. Hedrick to New York.

Dr. E. R. Hedrick will leave Saturday for New York City where he will attend a meeting of the American Mathematical Society.

Christmas Vespers Next Sunday.

A Christmas vesper service will be held at the Presbyterian Church at 5 o'clock next Sunday afternoon. It will include a Christmas pageant, "White Gifts for the King" and Christmas carols sung by a chorus. University students who are spending the holidays in Columbia are especially invited.

FOUR HELD IN
POISONING OF
GEORGIA MANWidow of Fred D. Shepard,
Slain Millionaire "Peach
King," Is Principal Fig-
ure in Charges.

HIS SISTER IS ACCUSER

Defendants Alleged to Have
Poisoned Whiskey and
Laughed While Man
Died.

By United Press.

MACON, Ga., Dec. 20.—Charged with poisoning Fred D. Shepard, millionaire "peach king," three women and one man were making the fight for their lives today.

The four members of the alleged murder "cabal" are the central figures in one of the most sensational cases in the history of the South. They are having their preliminary hearing before Judge Mathews, who will release them or order them held for trial.

Those charged with the murder are members of prominent families owning large plantations. They are the widow of the dead man, who has remarried and is now known as Mrs. Palmer Elmer, her sister, Mrs. Ione Henry, Henry Hobson, son of the widow by a former marriage, and Mrs. Annie Cutts.

The principal figure is Mrs. Elmer, referred to in the testimony as Paula. She has had three husbands and is alleged to have planned and lured the poisoning of Shepard.

It is alleged that Shepard's slayer poisoned his whiskey and that he died under their scrutiny while they were laughing and making merry with him, knowing all the time that he was doomed.

Mrs. Alice Crandall, the sister of the dead man, is the principal accuser.

"Fred was murdered by Paula and her gang," Mrs. Crandall testified that she had been informed by Mrs. Cutts, one of the defendants.

BARRETT NAMES ASSISTANTS

University Graduate Selected by At-
torney-General-Elect.

The six men who will serve as assistants under Attorney-General-elect Jesse W. Barrett following his installation, January 10, are: Merrill E. Otis of St. Joseph, Albert Miller of Hillsboro, Marshall Campbell of Sedalia, J. Henry Carothers of Cape Girardeau, Stratton Sharrel of Neosho and Roger J. Smith of Kennett.

Otis, '06, '10, University of Missouri, is an honorary fellow in political science and public law of the University. His work under Attorney-General Barrett will have to do with questions of corporations and constitutional law. Otis is an applicant for appointment as United States District Attorney at Kansas City, and his acceptance of the office offered him is on condition that it shall not impair his chances for recommendation by Senator Seldon P. Spencer for the appointment at Kansas City.

INCOME TAX MAN IS HERE

Columbia Has 500 Taxpayers in
This Class.

I. C. Henry, traveling representative for the United States Internal Revenue department, income tax division, was here for a short time Saturday night. Commenting on the number of persons in Columbia, who come under the income tax ruling, Mr. Henry said there are about 500. This, he said, is a pretty good average for a town of twelve thousand.

Mr. Henry has a nephew, Paul E. Thornburg, who is a student in the University.

GIRLS PLAY SANTA CLAUS

Campfire Members Buy Gifts for
Poor Children.

The Campfire Girls, true to the spirit of their organization, are busy in preparations for Christmas. This means to them, the preparing of Christmas for others. They bought presents for the poor children of Columbia. They were turned over to the Y. W. C. A., and were given out at the various Christmas parties Saturday afternoon.

The Campfire girls have also been selling Christmas seals.

RATIFIES MOTHER'S AID BILL

Sheppard-Towner Act Was Passed
by Senate Saturday.

By United Press.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The Senate Saturday passed the Sheppard-Towner Bill providing large appropriations for protection and medical care of mothers and babies.

Before passing, the bill was amended, in order to include medical care. The bill also included that not more than \$4,000,000 should be expended in one year in carrying out the provisions of the bill.

New Patients in the Hospital.

The following were admitted into Park Memorial Hospital yesterday: Tom D. Burnett, Milton Buchmuller, John R. Solyer, Mrs. Ida Conklin, George Gordon and George Plattburg. Clyde Smith, Edward Lloyd and Sam Turner were discharged from the hospital yesterday.